#### Amusements.

CADEMY OF MUSIC-8:15-Two Little Vagrants. ROADWAY THEATRE—8:15—Shamus O'Brien. CASINO—8:15—An American Beauty.
COLLUMBIS THEATRE—8:15—Under the Polar Star.
DALY'S THEATRE—8:15—Much Ado About Nothing
EDEN MUSER—8—Waxworks and Concert.
EMPIRE THEATRE—8:30—Under the Red Robe.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—8:15—A Superfluous H

Paris.

HOYT'S THEATRE—\$:30—A Contented Woman.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—\$:15—The Robbers.
KNICKERBOCKER \$:13—The Hobby Horse.
KOSTER & BIAL'S—2-S-Vaudeville.
LYCEUM THEATRE—\$:70—The Late
MURRAY HILL THEATRE—\$-The Great Northwest.
NEW METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE—S—Grand
Opera. OLYMPIA MUSIC HALL-8:15-Vaudeville; Winter Garden, Bal Champetre, 11. Bal Champetre, 11. S-12:30 to 11 p. m.—Vandeville, OLAS SKATING RINK—Skating. ASTOR'S 12:30 to 11 p. m.-Vaudeville.
T. NICHOLAS SKATING RINK-Skating.
FALLACK S-S:15-Kismet.
ITH STREET THEATRE-S:15-The Cherry Pickers.

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# New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1897.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CONGRESS.—Both branches in session.— Senate. The Oklahoma Free Homestead bill was passed, with an amendment extending its provisions to all lands acquired from the Indians. — House: The bill making oleomar-garine and other imitation dairy products sub-ject to the laws of the States into which they transported was passed.

FOREIGN.—"The Chronicle," of London, suggests a Peace Day, on which to celebrate the signing of the new Anglo-American treaty.

Advices from Bombay are that of the 3,334 cases of Bubonic plague, 2,356 have been fetal. fatal. Luis Somellian, the American citi-zen, who was adjudged guilty of conspiring against Spain, was sentenced to life imprison-

ment

DOMESTIC.—Senator Sherman left Washington to visit President-elect McKinley in Canton.

Senator Lodge talked over the availability of ex-Governor Long, of Massachusetts, for a place in the Cabinet. — The President and Mrs. Cleveland entertained the Diplomatic Corps at their first official reception of the and Mrs. Cleveland entertained the Diplomatic Corps at their first official reception of the season. — The Republican caucus in Albany nominated Thomas C. Platt for United States Senator and Chester S. Lord for Regent of the University. — Mr. Quesada, head of the Cu-ban Junta in Washington, denied reports that the insurgent leaders would accept autonomy. CITY.-Four United States prisoners escaped

from Ludlow Street Jail and one was recaptured. It was announced that J. Pierpont Morgan had given \$1,000,000 to the Society of the Lying-in Hospital for a new building, on condition that the society provide funds for the running expenses. The Rapid Transit Company of the chief engineer. running expenses. —— The Rapid Transit Com-mission adopted the plans of its chief engineer. mission adopted the plans of its chief engineer, W. B. Parsons. — Chapters on the departments of Charities, Correction, Docks and Fire were discussed at the hearing on the Greater New-York charter. — The Union League Club elected officers. — The annual dinner of the Holland Society was held at the Waldorf. — The dinner of the First Panel of the Sheriff's Jury was eaten at Delmonteo's. — Capitain Philo N. McGiffin, United States Navy, has become insane. — The stock market closed higher

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 31 de-grees; lowest, 27; average, 28%.

### THE BANKERS' AGITATION.

The Indianapolis Convention erded with just such impracticable non-action as might have been expected. The body did not represent the people of the United States, nor any considerable part | Harrison. He has been a member of every Reof them. It was a faint penumbra of the worst | publican National Convention since 1876. beaten Administration in American history-an Administration which found not a tenth of its party friends to uphold it. President Cleveland has been trying for years to make effective war on the National currency, in order to make room for State banks which he earnestly recommended. His utter failure, not only with Republicans, but with his own party, might have admonished theorists and bankers that there was a powerful public opinion in his way. But the bankers and theorists, nevertheless, assembled the Indianapolis Convention to set in motion a new agitation of the money question, which is about as untimely as it possibly could be. The convention ended, as might have been expected. in protests by the only practical legislators present against the action proposed, even though some of them were passionately in favor of the main object sought. The men who find it easy to believe that their individual wishes and interests are the wishes and interests of all the people of the country are apt to consider their way of getting things done the only way.

In years gone by it used to be quite the fashion at the West to assemble conventions and mass-meetings on behalf of sundry sectional, local or private interests, in order to instruct Congress what to do. It was the prevalent notion that members of Congress were elected, not to exercise any judgment of their own, but to hold their ears to the ground and hear what voluntary assemblages of self-appointed delegates might "demand." In the slow progress of National education it has been perceived by many persons that, after all, the man elected as lawmaker has received from the people a higher authority and mandate than any convention has or can give, and that he is bound by his oath of office to act as his own best judgment dictates for the welfare of the country. Then the voluntary convention gradually relapsed into its true place, as somewhat less authoritative than an election, and nowadays members of Congress are sufficiently enlightened to observe that the persons who want to instruct Congressmen are usually those who failed to elect them.

The convention resolved that the gold standard should be maintained, that all classes of United States notes should be retired, and "the revenue "and note issue departments of the Treasury "should be separated," and-

That a banking system be provided which should furnish credit facilities to every portion of the country, and a safe and elastic circulation, and especially with a view to securing such a distribution of the loanable capital of the country will tend to equalize the rates of interest in

These are the objects; the first already ordered by the people, the second directly opposed to the will of the people expressed at the last election, and the third so vague as to be incomprehensible. The convention therefore decided to appoint a committee of fifteen, to be swelled by itself to forty-five, of which five shall be a quorum, to possess all the powers of the convention, which is not a large estate. This committee is ordered to try to get appointed a monetary commission to study up the whole subject, and investigate "the monetary affairs and needs of the country in all their relations and aspects." and then call a second convention to hear what it has to say. It was very sensibly objected by practical men that this performance would put off any action until the day after never, as the investigation ordered could not be completed within the lifetime of any one generation. Mr. Fowler, of New-Jersey, also ventured to suggest that Congress has some knowledge and some porer, but the convention thought the discus-

passed its resolution under the previous ques-

The indefinite postponement of any attempt to act by an unauthorized body was a flash of good sense, which may, perhaps, be considered accidental. Certain it is that Congress does not consider itself in need of tutors, numbering fifteen, forty-five or five, and is more apt to vote against than to vote for any plan framed by the bankers of the country. Congressmen are aware that banknotes cannot be made more safe than National notes, that the conduct of National banks, as recently illustrated, suggests whether the wisdom of bankers is infinite or the control of the Controller absolute, and that the monetary difficulty at present is that, while the revenue laws yield a deficit, some beaten politicians and some interested persons want to keep up an agitation about the currency.

#### THOMAS C. PLATT NOMINATED.

The expected happened last night at Albany, when the Republican legislative caucus nominated on the first ballot the Hon. Thomas C. Platt for United States Senator by the very decisive vote of 142 against 7 for the Hon. Joseph H. Choate. The conditions leading up to this result had been so cleverly arranged by shrewd political managers, in the midst of a Presidential campaign which offered unusual opportunities for the exercise of their peculiar talents, that there has not been a doubt in the mind of any intelligent observer since the election as to the ultimate ou'come. Entertaining no doubt of his election, Mr. Platt's friends have manifested extreme anxiety that there should be no opposition to him, but that the choice should be unanimous. The intensity of their desires in this regard has led some of them into expressions of hostility toward those who differed with them as unnecessary as they were unworthy and unbecoming. Now that the contest is over, we believe that with returning reason these gentlemen will be willing to concede that the supporters of Mr. Choate are entitled to respect for the manly courage and steadfastness with which they stood up for their conscientious convictions and rightcous sense of duty in what they knew was a for-

Mr. Platt needs no introduction to the readers of The Tribune. In the twenty-five years of his political career this journal has had frequent occasion to comment not only upon his official acts when engaged in the public service, but upon the practices and methods of his political management when not in office by which he is chiefly known. That these comments have been almost invariably unfavorable to his character as a broad-minded statesman, or as a discreet, sagacious and clear-sighted party leader, our readers do not need to be told. His career in Congress from 1872 to 1876 was inconspicuous and uneventful. His activities were confined entirely to the discharge of functions connected with the distribution of official patronage. The advent of the Hayes Administration in 1877 found him a hopeful candidate for Cabinet honors, in the expectation of which he was disappointed. In September of that year he was put forward by Senator Conkling as president of the Republican State Convention at Rochester, and upon taking the chair read a carefully prepared speech attacking the Republican Administration. On January 18, 1881, he was elected United States Senator to succeed Francis Kernan. He took his seat on March 4, and addressed himself at once to the task of directing the Federal appointments in this State. Foreseeing his failure to defeat the confirmation of President Garfield's appointee as Collector of the Port of New-York, be angrily resigned his seat on May 16, and, Senator Conkling having taken the same action for the same cause, the State was left unrepresented in the Senate until July. Defeated for re-election, ever since, except for a Quarantine Commisslonership, he has been in retirement so far as public office is concerned, though very much in evidence during the last eight years as a leader, adviser and manager. In 1888 he was again candidate for a Cabinet position, and, being disappointed, became a personal enemy of President

During all this time he has been constant and indefatigable in his activities as political manager, and, naturally enough, as the leader of a faction. The claim of his friends that he has always been a Republican, in so far as relates to the support of regular nominations and voting the ticket at the polls, will not be disputed. But that his management has been factional, his policies devious and his methods questionable is unfortunately equally true. That he carried these practices so far as to put himself, and to some extent the party organization, on trading terms with Tammany when that body was at the height of its power and doing its worst was so generally believed by the better class of Republicans that a popular uprising against the rule of Bosses and the whole system of Bossism took place in 1892. That the main purpose of the inharmonious and misdirected efforts which followed was to disestablish the Republican machine of this county, which had fallen into disrepute, and depose Mr. Platt as its leader was obvious from the outset. Mr. Platt was not only sagacious enough to see it, but shrewd enough to fall in with first one and then the other of the two organizations, whose divided counsels furnished him the opportunity, and in the end defeat both, re-establishing the machine and rehabilitating himself with greater power and prestige than ever. The remissness and lack of coherence of his opponents gave him the opportunity to put himself at the head of the movement for Levi P. Morton for Governor, and his hold upon the State machinery gave him control of the Legislature. So for the last three years he has been more than ever the Boss, with all the power and all the opportunities which

It is useless to deny the possession of a certain kind of talent to a man who has accomplished what Mr. Platt has during the last three years. But it is talent of that kind better described as "smartness," and not that of a statesman, or even of a high-class politician. In his vigorous and vituperative campaign against McKinley before the St. Louis Convention he made a serions blunder, but in the agility with which he came to the front afterward, and the cool audacity with which he claimed the credit for shaping the most important plank in the platform, he showed readiness of resource, with the versatility and flexibility of the professional politician. It is because of the record he has made for himself, the salient points of which have been briefly touched upon, that The Tribune has opposed his leadership of the party, which it believed to be demoralizing and debasing, and opposed his election to the United States Senate, where it is to be feared he will repeat his former experience in antagonizing a President whose nomination he opposed. And yet it may be that, remembering the disasters to the party and to himself which followed his attempt to hold up a former Administration because it refused to do his bidding, he will hardly care to incur the risk of renewing that experience. However that may be, we may rest assured that the people of the United States who nominated and elected Mr. McKinley will not support the Senator who undertakes to bully or coerce him, or to carry the Senatorial control over confirmations beyond

legitimate objection on public grounds. It only remains to say that if Mr. Platt recognizes his opportunity to make for himself a reputation as a sagacious and clear-sighted politician, and even as a statesman, and embraces it by forgetting factions and rising above the pettiness of patronage and the function of dis-

sion was getting on delicate ground, and so ulations of The Tribune and find in it a stead-

WHAT CHARTER-AMENDING PROVES. The Committee on Draft and other members of the Charter Commission are listening to the criticisms of their work which they invited not merely with patient attention, but with open minds and an obviously earnest purpose to make the discussion profitable to the city. Many changes in the original draft, some of them of a radical nature and others of comparatively slight importance, have already been made, either in accordance with suggestions from outsiders or upon discovery by the Commissioners themselves of defective or doubtful provisions. This attitude is becoming and should be heartily commended, but nevertheless it suggests a serl ous and, indeed, a startling reflection.

Scarcely a single one of these alterations whether great or small, has resulted from a studious examination and thorough discussion of the subject. There has been no time for such deliberate work. In almost every case the change has followed the submission of a memorandum or a short oral statement, or has been abruptly announced by the Committee on Draft, being due to no public expostulation, but to further, though brief, consideration by the chartermakers. That is to say, the modifications have been in large measure accidental. Somebody has happened to detect what seemed to him a blunder and has pointed it out. We say hap pened, because it is utterly impossible that any citizen not a member of the Commission should have obtained more than a slight, superficial knowledge of this enormous subject, and the Commissioners themselves are evidently making fresh discoveries from day to day, or at least obtaining new views. "Here is a clause," says some one, "which a moment's reflection leads me to condemn." "You are right," say the Commissioners, "we had not thought of it before, but the point is a good one." Substantially in this manner a great many changes have already been adopted, with respect to provisions which have chanced to eatch the notice and fix the thoughts of individuals. But those details which have passed under review are a mere fraction of the whole. There is a vast deposit which remains practically unexplored. Having every wish not to indulge in exaggeration, we consider it not improbable that there are hundreds, if not thousands, of points at which the Commission would be glad to introduce modifications in their work

if they had any means of finding them. And this is the scheme of government for a city of 3,000,000 inhabitants which in a little more than two weeks must be presented to the Legislature in a presumptively complete and satisfactory form, and all ready for the application of the "jamming through" process! strongest indictment of this enterprise is that which is now being drawn in public with the disinterested assistance of the Charter Commission. They have explicitly confessed to many serious errors in the course of a short and utterly inade quate examination of their work, and by implication they acknowledge the probability of innumerable faults. To force such conditions of municipal existence upon these unconsulted communities would be an outrageous abuse of power. Against such an act of tyranny not only the common-sense of the majority but the experience of the Charter Commission most streniously protests.

### ARBITRATION NOT ALLIANCE.

Talk about the Arbitration Treaty being an alliance in support of the Monroe Doctrine is groundless and may be mischievous. It had its origin, apparently, in that fecund source of news that is not so, "The London Chronicle," and it took the specious form of an utterance attributed to the American Secretary of State. That Mr. Olney really said anything of the sort is scarcely within the limits of supposability. If he did, it must be regretted that in moment of inexplicable indiscretion he should have done so much to undo the admirable work he had just brought to its conclusion. Even such a bit of marplotry could not, probably, defeat the treaty, because any one of clear discernment and sound judgment can see for himself how baseless it is. Nevertheless such a saying, attributed without challenge or contradiction to such a man, might easily create an unfavorable prejudice in other lands, both against this country and against the principle of international arbitration which this country is endeavoring to promote.

The fact is, of course, that neither in the text nor between the lines of the treaty is there a single expression that can be construed as even hinting at an alliance or at any support of the Monroe Doctrine. In its Introductory clause the treaty is declared to be the result of a mutual desire "of consolidating the relations of amity" existing between the two nations, and of "consecrating the principle of international arbitration." Now, neither amity nor arbitration is alliance. Men may be friends without being partners, and they may agree to settle their own disputes peaceably without pledging themselves to fight each other's enemies. The same is true of nations. This country has concluded special arbitration treaties with Great Britain before the present, but there was no hint of alliances in them, and neither is there in this general treaty. If any third Power should imagine there was, and on that account should intrigue against the ratification of the treaty, it would be meddling with what did not concern it for a non-existent cause. If any one in Great Britain or the United States puts forward such a notion he is doing one of the gravest of injuries to his own land.

This is not to say, of course, that Great Britain does not countenance the Monroe Doctrine. On the contrary, there are the best of reasons for believing that she does recognize it as a valid and potent principle of American policy, to which the world at large must pay due heed. It would be strange if she did not, seeing that she herself suggested that Doctrine and strongly approved it at the time of its promulgation, and that it has formed the strongest guarantee against the molestation of her own American colonies. Within the last year or two her publie men and journals best qualified to speak for her have expressed unhesitating approval of the Doctrine, and that approval has received the seal of highest official sanction in the now pending Venezuela treaty. But from all that this Arbitration Treaty is a thing apart. It makes no mention of the Doctrine, nor of offence and defence, nor of alliance of any kind. It provides for the arbitration of disputes, simply that and nothing more; and it is on that ground alone that it is to be judged.

## MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP AGAIN.

The widespread discussion over the article on municipal ownership that recently appeared in The Tribune is evidence of the general in terest that is felt in the subject. The move ment toward municipal ownership in the municipalities of Great Britain is, in a large measure, the moving cause of this interest; but the crying need of a better administration of municipal affairs in this country gives to it a practical turn. And the moment a thing becomes practical for an American, he asks himself, Is it also practicable? In other words, if Glasgow, Birmingham and other cities of Great Brush's position is perfectly right. Britain find that the municipal ownership of their public works is desirable from the point of view of the taxpayer, why would it not work just as well in American cities?

In trying to find an answer to this question three things are to be borne in mind. First, municipal ownership in Great Britain, though tributing it, he will receive the cordial congrat- it seems destined to be a success, has not yet

passed the experimental stage. In Glasgow, for instance, we learn from a correspondent that municipal ownership has not yet been financially successful enough to do away with the necessity of levying taxes, as was reported; and from other sources we learn that there is considerable grumbling at the low wages paid by the city. It is, in fact, said that the city cannot run its public works at a profit if it pays good wages to its workmen. Be that as it may, all that can be said thus far of municipal ownership in Great Britain is that it is a hopeful experiment which may possibly fail

In the second place, the conditions of the problem to be solved are very different in Great Britain from those that obtain in this country. Cities and towns in Great Britain do not have to pay for many things that an American city has to pay for. A good part of the money for the support of the schools of England and Scotland comes from the Imperial Treasury. About half of the police force of Glasgow is paid for in the same way; and as the Judiciary of Scotland is paid for by the Crown, Glasgow and other Scottish cities have to pay only for their local police judges. In many other ways also the cost of government is made much cheaper for municipalities in Greac Britain than it is in American municipalities, even when they are honestly and economically administered. fact, therefore, that municipal ownership is financially profitable in Great Britain does not prove that it would be so in American cities. prove that it would be so in American cities to the same extent. Of course, municipal ownership may be desirable for other reasons, even if it does not return large dividends. But we must not go into municipal ownership with the idea that it will necessarily relieve American municipalities of all taxation. If we do we shall probably find ourselves mistaken.

Especially is this so, because and this is our third poinf-our municipal administration in this country is confessedly bad; and until it has been radically reformed the best system of municipal government in the world would work badly. Fancy turning over the lighting and transportation plants of this city to a gang of Tammany plunderers! To be sure, Tammany s out of office in this city, we hope and believe forever; but until every American city has in the same way driven its rascals and plunderers out of power for good and all, it would be folly to add to the pickings of municipal thieves by ncreasing their opportunities through the municipal ownership of all public works. The immediate duty lying before us is to reform our municipal administration, not by a fleeting spasm of virtue that soon drops into inertia like a spent bullet, but in such a way that the reform will be permanent. Then by that time we shall be in a position to adopt the plan of municipal ownership, if, as we anticipate, it shall prove a success in Great Britain.

#### WANTED-GOOD ROADS LEGISLATION.

One of the early bills to be introduced in he Legislature will, we trust, be a well-considered measure to forward the work of providing improved roads in this State. It is known that leading officials in the wheelmen's organization are profoundly interested in this subject, and it is hoped as the result of conferences held within the last few months that the opposition coming from rural taxpayers. which has heretofore stood in the way of road improvement on an extended scale, will be largely disarmed, and the prospect of enacting such a measure as is needed thereby improved. Intelligent sentiment everywhere, we are glad to believe, is on the side of good roads, and there is no doubt that such sentiment is growing. Unhappily, there are not lacking many signs that education on the subject is required. The plan proposed a year ago was an intelligent one, the result of a careful study of the question by a competent legislative committee. But county after county, through its representatives, sought to be relieved from the operation of the proposed law, until at lengta the bill was so emasculated that little regret was felt when it was abandoned altogether.

Object lessons on the subject of improved have cared to look outside of their immediate neighborhood and of the borders of the State, In only a few parts of our own Commonwealth has the work of providing better ways been taken hold of seriously, but the results in counties like Richmond and Queens are conclusive as to the benefits derived from such a policy. From Massachusetts and Connecticut information has recently come regarding the progress made in the last year, and it is most encouraging. In the former State an appropriation of \$800,000 was provided a year ago, and in 1896 the number of miles of road built by the State advanced from eighty-nine to 130, the work being done in many different localities, for the sake of bringing its advantages before the eyes of a large number of the people. An appropriation of a like amount will be sought this year. There is a strong feeling in favor of continuing the policy entered on three or four years ago, and a number of "through routes" are contemplated in various directions. Connecticut proceeds in a much more modest way, its annual appropriation being limited to \$75,000. In the two years since the State undertook the work and appointed a Highway Commission, however, the counties have contributed the same amount as the State, and more than \$500,000 has been raised by the towns for road improve-

New-York still lags in the rear of States that in other respects are no more progressive State pride, if nothing else, should spur us to follow the good examples around us and make liberal appropriations for this most useful and practical purpose. It is not impossible that, in line with the suggestion of Governor Black in his message, provision may be made by the Legislature in connection with this matter for the employment of some of the State Prison convicts in road-making. The sentiment in opposition thereto, which has hitherto prevailed to a considerable extent, should be lessened, if not removed, by the necessity which exists for providing work for the prisoners. These men must have work. The State needs roads. The putting of this and that together seems a simple matter. Whether or not the Governor's hint is acted on, it is the urgent duty of the Legislature and the Executive to see that the work of improving our highways is not longer postponed.

Croker seems to have gone back violently on his oft-reiterated asseveration that he was out of politics. Anyhow, he is acting mightily like a man who is in politics for all he is worth.

equal Thomas Jefferson in great things, but he is going to mimic him in small ones. He declined to have a procession at his inauguration, but walked from his boarding-house to the place where his "job" was, just like any other "hired man." How Bryan's heart must warm toward him!

Senator Brush wants bills enacted upholding the right of all citizens to join their party organizations if they wish to do so.

An ingenious attempt is made by a writer in "The Financial News" of London to reckon the monetary worth, or rather the annual profits, of "The London Times"—a matter usually veiled in impenetrable mystery. A short time ago, it seems, a man brought suit in a London court to recover damages for loss sustained by him through misrepresentation. He had purchased

for £353 an interest in "The Times" amounting to "1-14 of 2-3 of 1-9 of 2-16" of the whole, that is to say, 1-1,512, on the representation that it was worth f25 a year, but as a matter of fact the dividend on it in 1894 was only £17 3s. 11d. Now, if 1-1,512 of the paper was sold for £353, the whole would have been worth £533,736, and if the dividend on 1-1,512 was only £17 3s. 11d., the total dividend must have been £26,000 2s. It is difficult to believe that the dividends of profit of that great paper are only \$130,000 a year. Yet the Court decided in the plaintiff's favor, and awarded to him damages of 165.

In spite of the fact that Major Jacob Crosthwait, of Connorsville, Ky., directed in his will that his tombstone should bear the inscription, "Free silver at the ratio of 16 to 1," there may e some people who will believe that the free silver campaign was not a crank agitation tending to promote madness.

There will be a flood of bills at Albany affect. ing the Civil Service. But the opponents of the merit system will not be able to legislate it out of existence without first getting it out of the Constitution.

The Board of Health has come to the conclusion that there ought to be a special hospital in the city for the care of tuberculous patients. There is no longer any doubt that tuberculosis is a communicable disease, and the danger of treating such patients in general hospitals is ob vious. The city may not now be in a position to erect a separate hospital for consumptives, socalled, but as soon as practicable the money should be provided for the purpose.

#### PERSONAL.

John W. Crisfield, who has just died at his home at Princess Anne, Maryland, was ranked among the ablest lawyers in the State. He was promment in the old Whig party and was e speech on the floor in opposition to the Mexican War. He was a member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1856, and during the war was one of the few men of prominence in the State who adhered to the Union cause. He went to Congress again during the war, and was a member of the famous Peace Congress of 1861.

A curious spectacle was witnessed the other day in the chapel of the Jesuit School, Rue de Madrid, Paris, when Abbé Courbe celebrated his first mass. The new priest was assisted at the altar by his two eldest sons, who have also entered the priesthood, one being a Capuchin. By the marriage which he had contracted before he took orders Abbé Courbe had several other children, all of whom were present at the ceremony.

Dr. Thomas Jefferson Sawyer, emeritus professor of theology at Tufts College, celebrated his ninetythird birthday on Saturday. He was one of the founders of Tufts College, and has long been a prominent figure among the Universalists. He was pastor of a church in Orchard-st., in this city. from 1832 to 1845. A call which was issued in 1817 for a convention in this city led to the founding of Tufts College, Canton Theological School, and St. Lawrence University, and he was the president of the first Board of Trustees of each. When the ufts Divinity School was opened in 1839 he became ackard professor of theology, retiring in 1834, on count of impaired eyesight. He twice declined as presidency of Tufts College, and he also reised similar positions in the Canton Theological hool and in Lombard, University. He lives at bilege Hill with his daughter, the wife of Prossor George T. Knight, of the Tufts Divinity theol.

"We are gratified to be able to announce," says "The Examiner," of this city, "that Dr. Wayland is gradually regaining his wonted health, after his serious battle with mallgnant microbes, of which and their beneficent foes the Rambier writes so cheerfully this week. He was able to take a half-hour's outing on Saturday, and will soon, there is reason to hope, be entirely himself again."

General Felix Agnus, the proprietor of "The deny the story that when he came to this country he began his career as a barber in this city. "I he began his career as a barber in this city. To came to this country," he says, "under engagement as a chaser and sculptor to the great firm of Tiffany & Co., of New-York, from which establishment I went direct to the ranks as a private soldier, though not speaking a word of the English language."

London, Jan. 14.-John S. Sargent has been elected a member of the Royal Academy, and Alfred Par-

## THE TALK OF THE DAY.

The statue of Descartes, in Tours, was recently decorated with wreaths and garlands, in recognition of the 360th anniversary of his birth. propriate ceremonies were held, under the auspices of the Abbé Bossebeuf, professor of sciences in

A gentleman saw the following advertisement in a paper: "The Road to Wealth. Send twelve stamps to —." The gentleman sent twelve stamps, and in return for his outlay received minute instructions how to get to the Bank of England from any part of London.—(London Fun.

The following placard is displayed in a Philadelphia barber-shop: "For the convenience of patrons, brush and comb are provided for each. No Our barber will not receive any extras. Please do not offer any." Outside the shop a col ored man has a bootblacking stand, over which is the sign: "Pedal teguments artistically illuminated and lubricated for the infinitesimal compensation of five cents per operation.

Here is an advertisement which should bring trade, even though people had to use a grindstone to wear holes through their shoes:

TWENTY-SIX CHILDREN! No Twins. I AM ALSO A COBBLER AND NEED WORK.

If I have served my country well it is evi-dence that I will mend your shoes well. One good turn deserves another. My shop is in the rear of Caldwell and Lanier's. Let me half-sole those.

-(Boot and Shoe Recorder,

The Tribune has already suggested that certain the plague were grossly exaggerated. Here are Journal," which corroborate that opinion. During the week ending December 12 the total number of deaths due to bubonic fever was 173, and from the first recognition of the outbreak in September until December 30 not more than 1,735. These sta-tistics justify alarm and a rigid sanitary regime, not only in India, but also at ports having commerce with Bombay; but they show that as yet

The chief proofreader of "The London Times" is a Cambridge graduate, who has a salary of fl.000, or \$5.000; but, then, he is a great scholar, not only in the English language, but in all ancient and other tongues, not excepting Asiatic ones. He is permitted to query and suggest excisions or additions to the work of writers and editors.—(Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly.

The old French Convention lasted three years one month and four days. It had 749 members and passed 11,210 decrees. Of its 749 members, 58 were guillotined-Duray, June 26, 1793, being the first, and Bishop Huguet the last, October 6, 1796; 8 were assassinated and 2 shot; 14 committed suicide; 5 died of grief; 6 perished in abject misery; 3 died on the highway, to be eaten by dogs; 1, Armonville, the last wearer of the red cap, perished in a drunken fit; 4 died mad; 2 were killed in the army; I was carried away by the Prussians and never heard of; 3 died suddenly; 1 expired in prison; I fell dead of joy on learning that Bonaparte had disembarked at Frejus; 138 perished in exile or in penal settlements; 23 were never heard of from the date of the eighteenth Brumaire; 65 vanished after the coronation of Napoleon, and 25 died in poverty and obscurity. The Convention had 63 presiding officers, of whom 18 were guillotined and 8 transported; 22 were outlawed, and 6 sentenced to im-prisonment for life; 4 died in madhouses, and 3 com-

Dresden owns a singular piece of property. It is a morning newspaper, the "Dresdener Anzeiger."
This daily, upon the death of its last proprietor, was willed to the city, upon the condition that all profits arising therefrom should be spent upon the public parks. This year a large playground of nearly eight acres was purchased from Prince George, the King's brother and heir-apparent, and it will be ready for use next spring. The paper continues to hold the respect of all citizens, for the trust has been carried out in its broadest spirit, and the power has never been employed to foster any school of opinions.—(Fourth Estats.

# MUSIC.

MME. CARRENO'S RECITAL.

The first of Mme. Teresa Carrefio's pianoforte recitais took place in the ballroom of the Waldorf yeaterday afternoon. It was sadly marred by the noise made by the builders at work on the adjoining building, a circumstance that recalled several other unhappy experiences which concert audiences have hammers disturbed the singing of Mme. Lehman at Carnegle Hall last Tuesday afternoon, and some weeks ago a concert of the Oratorio was all but broken up by the stench of creosote, which was being applied to some planks in the building. It is a singular disregard of the rights of the public which permits such things on the part of the managers of concert-rooms, and if neither they nor the managers of concerts correct the evil, the public will act wisely in taking the remedy in their own hands and refusing to go to an entertainment unless they have assured noises. Mma. pleasure shall not be spoiled by outside noises. Mma. pleasure shall not be spoiled by outside noises. Mma. Carreño will give two more recitals at the Waldorf, on Wednesday and Friday afternoons of next week. It is to be hoped that the nuisance which interfered with yesterday's enjoyment will then be abated. The size of the gathering and the intensity of

interest displayed by the listeners were both demonstrations of the admiration in which Mma. Carreño is held here. Under the circumstance, therefore, it seems desirable that the list of please which she played yesterday be correctly printed, which was not done on the programme put into the hands of the audience. They were: Bach's Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue (with the brass ornaments appended by Von Bülow): Benthoven's Sonata in F minor, op. 57 (familiarly known as "Appassiomata"); two of Chopin's twenty-four preludes, op. 28, in B flat major and E flat minor; his nocturne in G major, op. 37, No. 2; his Etude in G flat, the Polonaise in A flat, op. 52; Schubert's Impromptu in B flat, op. 142, No. 2 the Soires de Vienne, No. 8. of Schubert-Liszt: "La Campanella," by Paganini-Iaszt; one of Lizzt's Sonnetti del Petrarca" and the same composer's sixth Hun-garian Rhapsody. The least familiar of these pieces was the one before the last-a transcription of one of three melodies written by Liszt for sonnets by Petrarch. Mine. Carreño wrought up the enthusiasm of her listeners to high-water m with her performances - the Chopin study (which she repeated) and the tintinabulatory study conrocted by the Liszt of the violin and the Paganini of the planoforte, but she held the attention of her auditors without a moment's cessation for nearly two hours under trying conditions. Her playing was most strongly characterized by dash and day reached in the "Campanella" and the Hungarian line between musical sonority and noise was several times overstepped. Mme, Carreño, as all her friends know, is a virile player; her sentiment is far removed from sentimentality at all times, often too far, in Chopin's music. But she never falls to stimulate interest on the part of her hearers. As excessive fondness for the tempo rubato of an extremely eratic kind (at least in the ration detre of which is not always obvious; also marks her playing, and, coupled with her technical fearless ness and daring, makes up the strongest element in her individualism. We fancy it was this element which won for her so much acclaim in Germani but we have known it here as long as we have

## DIPLOMATIC NIGHT AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

A BRILLIANT SCENE PRESENTED AT THE FIRST OFFICIAL RECEPTION OF THE SEASON.

Washington, Jan. 14.-The first official reception season took place to-night at the Executive Mansion. Without it was cold and forbidding, but within all was luxurious and warm. Hundreds of palms, large and small, were placed about the brilliantly lighted rooms. The great East Room never showed to better advantage. Hanging from the great chandeliers was running by, which encirled thousands of electric lights of varied colors. The mantels were banked with roses, fringed

ors. The mantels were banked with roses, fringed with hyacinths and ferns. Lofty paims reared their graceful heads to the ceiling. Moving among the semi-tropical scene was a throng composed of the wealth, fashion and beauty of Washington society. It was diplomatic night. The brilliant unforms of the foreign diplomats, the no less show but less varied uniforms of the United States Arms and Navy officers; the full-dress tollets of the women, and the men in full dress made a scern which was dazzlingly brilliant. The Marine Band, stationed in the vestibule, furnished music.

The President and Mrs. Cleveland, with all the women of the Cabinet circle, formed in a line in the Red Room, where the presentations were made first to the President and then to Mrs. Cleveland by Colonel Wilson, the guests then proceeding to the East Room. Passing down the line, the guests only bowed unless they were personally acquainted with some of the women, when they shook hands. Mr. Cleveland, Behind the receiving line was a brilliant bevy of young matrons and débutantes, making a beautiful background.

The reception began at 9, and it was 12 o'clock before all the guests departed. The reception began at 9, and it was 12 o'clock before all the guests departed.

THE REV. DR. PENTECOST DECLINES.

HE WILL NOT ACCEPT THE CALL TO THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF YONKERS.

A cable message has been received in Yonkers announcing that the Rev. Dr. Pentecost, of the Marylebone Presbyterian Church, of London, has de clined to accept the call of the First Presbyterian Church, of Yonkers. Extensive preparations had been made to receive Dr. Pentecost.

UNION LEAGUE CLUB ELECTION.

The Union League Club held its annual meeting last evening in the clubhouse, at Fifth-ave. and Thirty-ninth-st., and the members listened to reports showing that the club was stronger in membership and in its financial affairs than ever be fore. In the election of officers for 1897 there was no opposition to the ticket recently announced in The Tribune, General Porter being re-elected president of the club, and other officers being chosen

as follows: Vice-presidents-Class of 1899: Matthew C. D.

Vice-presidents—Class of 1829: Matthew C. D.
Borden, Augustus D. Juilliard, Charles C. Reaman
and Banjamin F. Tracy; Class of 1828: Richard
Butler, to fill vacancy.
Secretary—Walter C. Gilson.
Treasurer—William G. White.
Executive Committee—Class of 1829: Cornelius B.
Mitchell, Joseph W. Howe, John W. Aitken, Behiamin Parr and George W. Forsyth; class of 1871.
Albert G. Hyde, to fill vacancy.
Committee on Admissions—Class of 1839: William
H. Hollister, Francis G. Gorham, E. Ritzena de
Grove, Lowell Lincoln and Henry F. Shoemaker.
Committee on Library and Publications—Class of
1839: James C. Reed, Robert F. Bixby and Marshall H. Clyde.
Committee on Art—Thomas B. Clarke, Alfred E.
M. Purdy, Joseph S. Stout, Henry R. McLaue,
Clarence Andrews, Howard C. Smith, Joseph C.
Willetts.

Charence Andrews, Howard C. Smith, Joseph C. Willetts.
Committee og Political Reform—Cephas Brainerd.
Charles T. Harbeck, E. B. Hinsdale, James A. Blanchard, Thomas L. James, Nathaniel A. Prentiss, Isaac H. Bromley, Edward Mitchell, Frederick D. Grant, William M. V. Hoffman, Salem T. Russell, Samuel Thomas, Frederic C. Wagner, Auditors—Walter A. Pease, Charles Davison, Andrew Mills.

It was expected by some of the members that an effort would be made to amend the bylaws, so as to prevent the passage of resolutions similar to the recent Choate resolutions, without a week's notice, but no movement was made in that direction. A resolution in respect to the Greater New-York charter was offered, but more than twenty-five members objected to its immediate consideration under a rule which has been in force in the club for years, and the resolution went over until another meeting.

A number of new members were elected.

#### AT THE IRVING PLACE THEATRE. "Das Einmaleins," a comedy by Blumenthal, was

given for the first time in this country at the Iry-ing Place Theatre last evening. The piece, which is full of clever and witty sayings and amusing situations, met the hearty favor of the large audience uations, met the hearty favor of the large audience. The chief parts were taken by the Misses Schlueter, Braga and Forst and Messrs Reusch. Pfeil Link and Senius, and the well-deserved applaus which they received was frequent and liberal. The play will be repeated to-morrow afternoon and play will be repeated to-morrow afternoon and evening. To-night Mr. Conried will give his popular interpretation of the part of Franz Moor in Schiller's "Roobers."

NOTES OF THE STAGE.

Miss Olga Nethersole will play an engagement st the Garrick Theatre, beginning in March.

At the American Theatre, on February I, will be produced a new play, called "New-York," under the management of W. A. Brady.

Oscar Hammerstein has brought a suit for \$5,000 against Mile. Yvette Guilbert for alleged breach of contract. He says that she contracted with him contract. He says that she contracted with him never to appear in America under any other management than his, without giving him an opportunity to bid against any offer that she might have, and that her present engagement with Koster & Blal is a violation of that agreement. Her manager, T. D. Marks, says that when Mr. Bisi made his offer to Mile. Guilbert he sent word to Mr. Hammerstein and waited for two weeks for a reply, and that, having received none, he then made the gagement.